Publisher Fires a Reporter, Says She Was FBI Informer

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The publisher of The Nashville Tennessean said yesterday that he fired one of his eimployees for alledgedly being an FBI informer.

Publisher John Seigenthaler said Jackie Srouji, 31, a copy editor and reporter, was fired "as a result of information she gave me concerning her association, past and present, with the FBI."

"His charges that I was spying on the staff for the FBI are simply not true,' Srouji said yesterday. "As if there was anything to spy on at that newspaper."

Srouji testified before investigators for a House subcommittee here last week and reportedly displayed documents she had obtained from the FBI. The investigators, who asked not to be identified, said the documents appeared to have been designed to discredit the reputation of Karen Silkwood.

Silkwood, 28, was killed in a November, 1974, car incident following a dispute over nuclear safety regulations with her emplozer, a Kerr-McGee plutonium processing plant in Oklahoma City.

After being contracted by the committee, Seigenthaler consulted with Srouji and then fired her, the publisher said. Srouji has completed a book on nuclear power, scheduled for publication in six weeks, which includes a chapter on Silkwood.

FBI agent Lawrence Olson Sr., assigned to national security in the FBI's Oklahoma City office, reportedly told committee investigators that he met with Srouji on April 13, 1975, to discuss Silkwood.

Olson reportedly refused to comment further on the "special relationship" committee investigators allege that Srouji had with the FBI. Asked yesterday by a reporrter about the FBI's relationship with Srouji, Olson commented, "Forget it, pal."

Rep. John D. Dingle (D-Mich), whose Energy and Environment Subcommittee is conduting the investigation, said yesterday that he had contacted the office of FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley to ask "a large number of questions that only he can answer."